

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A topical anesthetic composition for administration to skin or mucosa consisting essentially of a sprayable homogeneous solution having:
  - (a) one or more local anesthetic agents, wherein the concentration of the local anesthetic agent is from about 5 to about 50 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition;
  - (b) penetration enhancer, wherein the concentration of the penetration enhancer is from about 1 to about 30 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition; and
  - (c) an anhydrous volatile solvent, wherein the concentration of the anhydrous volatile solvent is from about 10 to about 94 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition.
  - (c) water, wherein the concentration of the water is from about 0.01 to about 20 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition.
2. The topical anesthetic composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the local anesthetic agent is about 35 wt%.
3. The topical anesthetic composition of claim 1, wherein the local anesthetic agent is selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, tetracaine, benzocaine, procaine, mepivacaine, bupivacaine, etidocaine, cocaine and mixtures thereof.
4. The topical anesthetic composition of claim 1, wherein the local anesthetic agent is lidocaine.
5. The topical anesthetic composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the penetration enhancer is about 10 wt%.

6. The topical anesthetic composition of claim 1, wherein the penetration enhancer is a fatty acid ester selected from the group consisting of isopropyl palmitate, isopropyl myristate, isopropyl laurate, diisopropyl adipate, ester derivatives of capric acid, lauric acid, leucinic acid, neodecanoic acid, and oleic acid, sorbitan esters, long chain alkyl esters of 2-pyrrolidone, and combinations thereof.
7. The topical anesthetic composition of claim 6, wherein penetration enhancer is isopropyl palmitate.
8. The topical anesthetic composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the anhydrous volatile solvent is from about 50 to about 55 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition.
9. The topical anesthetic composition of claim 1, wherein the anhydrous volatile solvent is ethanol.
10. The topical anesthetic composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of water is about 0.01 wt%.
11. The topical anesthetic composition of claim 1, wherein the unit dosage of the local anesthetic agent is about 30mg/in<sup>2</sup> when sprayed 1-inch from an intended surface.
12. The topical anesthetic composition of claim 1, wherein the topical anesthetic composition has an efficacy of from about 3 to 15 minutes.
13. The topical anesthetic composition of claim 1, wherein the topical anesthetic composition has an efficacy of from about 5 to 10 minutes.
14. The topical anesthetic composition of claims 1, wherein the topical anesthetic composition remains effective for about 30 minutes.

15. A topical anesthetic composition for administration to skin or mucosa consisting essentially of a sprayable homogeneous solution having:

- (a) one or more local anesthetic agents, wherein the concentration of the local anesthetic agent is from about 5 to about 50 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition;
- (b) penetration enhancer, wherein the concentration of the penetration enhancer is from about 1 to about 30 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition; and
- (c) an anhydrous volatile solvent, wherein the concentration of the anhydrous volatile solvent is from about 10 to about 94 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition.
- (c) water, wherein the concentration of the water is less than about 10 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition.

16. The topical anesthetic composition of claim 16, wherein the concentration of the water is less than about 5 wt%.

17. The topical anesthetic composition of claim 16, wherein the concentration of the water is less than about 1 wt%.

18. A topical anesthetic composition for administration to skin or mucosa consisting essentially of a sprayable homogeneous solution having:

- (a) lidocaine base, wherein the concentration of lidocaine base is from about 5 to about 50 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition;
- (b) isopropyl palmitate, wherein the concentration isopropyl palmitate is from about 1 to about 30 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition;
- (c) ethanol, wherein the concentration of the ethanol is from about 10 to about 94 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition; and

- (d) water, wherein the concentration of the water is less than about 10 wt % of the topical anesthetic composition.

19. A method of anesthetizing skin or mucosa, said method comprising:

swabbing the skin or mucosa with alcohol;

spraying a topical anesthetic composition on skin or mucosa consisting essentially of:

- (a) lidocaine base, wherein the concentration of lidocaine base is from about 5 to about 50 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition;
- (b) isopropyl palmitate, wherein the concentration isopropyl palmitate is from about 1 to about 30 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition;
- (c) ethanol, wherein the concentration of the ethanol is from about 10 to about 94 wt% of the topical anesthetic composition; and
- (d) water, wherein the concentration of the water is less than about 10 wt % of the topical anesthetic composition.

20. The method of claim 20, wherein a spray pump is used to spray the topical anesthetic composition onto skin or mucosa.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein about 30 mg/in<sup>2</sup> of the topical anesthetic composition is administered to the skin or mucosa where the spray pump is held 1-inch from the intended surface.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the skin or mucosa is anesthetized within from about 3 to about 15 minutes after administration of the topical anesthetic composition.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the skin or mucosa is anesthetized within from about 5 to about 10 minutes after administration of the topical anesthetic composition.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the skin or mucosa remains anesthetized for about 30 minutes.

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